

REMARKS:

This is a full and complete response to the office action dated May 18, 2010. Favorable reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

REGARDING THE CLAIMS:

Claims 9 and 12-21 are pending in the application. Claim 9 and 21 are currently amended. Support for such amendments can be found in Figs. 1 and 2, as well as p. 6, last paragraph.

Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to Fig. 2 for not including reference number "3." Applicants provide such revised drawing in a replacement sheet herewith.

REJECTIONS:**112 REJECTIONS**

Claims 9, 12-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner objected to the phrase "a portion of the fishing rod connected to the fishing reel." However, as such phrase is deleted the rejection is rendered moot.

The Examiner objected to the phrase "the bottom of said base portion" as lacking antecedent basis. Applicants note that antecedent basis is already provided inherently. As stated in §2173.05(e) of the MPEP "Inherent components of elements recited have antecedent basis in the recitation of the components themselves. For example, the limitation 'the outer surface of the sphere' would not require an antecedent recitation..."

Applicants have amended claim 18 to depend from claim 9. Furthermore, with respect to the phrase "the height of the said top portion," such antecedent basis is inherently provided. MPEP §2173.05(c). Additionally, the term "apertures" has been amended to recite "aperture."

With respect to claim 21, Applicants respectfully disagree that the phrase “the anchor arrangement...attached to said vehicular rack a distance away from said carrier box” is unclear. Those of skill in the art would easily understand what is meant with respect the recitation. Those of skill in the art understand what is meant by a vehicular rack and that the carrier box and anchor are both are attached to a rack on the same vehicle. The term “said” indicates that it is not a rack on another vehicle, and thus helps those of skill in the art understand the claim rather than render the claim unclear. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the scope and meaning the claim is clear to those of skill in the art.

102 AND 103 REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 9, 12-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by White et al, US 2,171,053 (“White”). Claims 9, 12-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Mathews, US 2,807,398 (Mathews). Claims 9, 12-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Stahl, US 4,063,646 (“Stahl”). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Nowicki, US 3,719,297 (“Nowicki”). Claims 9, 12-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated over White, US 2,171,053 in view of Snavelly et al., US 6,015,074 or Rivenbark, US 6,003,748.

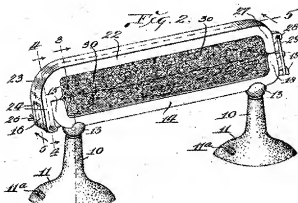
The above rejections are respectfully traversed as follows.

Applicants submit that none of the primary references, White, Mathews, Stahl, nor Nowick taken alone or in combination disclose, teach or suggest a carrier box. The devices which they disclose would not be considered a carrier box as is understood by those of skill in the art. However, Applicants have amended to further define and clarify a “box.” Accordingly, Applicants now recite a top roof portion, sides, a bottom floor portion, where the top and bottom portion edges are closed onto one another to form a void cavity. Furthermore, the access aperture is formed in the front side portions of the cargo box. Moreover, the box is sized such that it can contain a fishing reel.

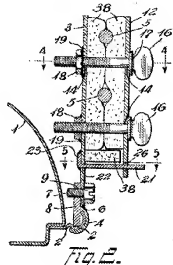
As fishing reels are recently very expensive, carrier boxes such as the present one claimed which provide protection from the elements are very advantageous. However, none of the cited art discloses boxes, containers or enclosures for fishing reels which can provide a

substantially weather tight seal against the elements, accordingly they cannot even serve the same function. Thus, both structurally and functionally the cited art does not disclose teach or suggest the present claims.

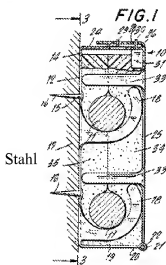
From a brief view of the cited references, it can be seen that no carrier boxes are disclosed by the references:.



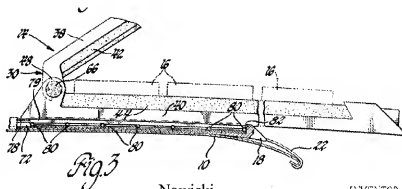
White



Mathews



Stahl



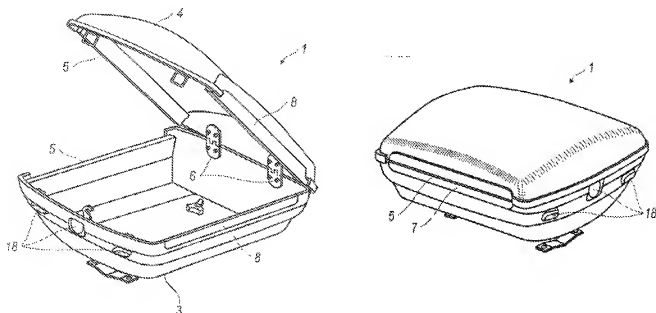
Nowicki

INVENTOR

Each of the above cited references White, Mathews, Stahl, nor Nowick do not disclose a carrier box. At most, all that is disclosed are two arms which close upon one another. For example, the Examiner refers to Fig. 3 and 5 in White, but Figs 2 and 5 are merely a cross-sectional views of the line 3—3 and the line 5—5 in Fig. 2. White discloses merely two arms which close upon one another and cannot be considered a box. Similarly, for example, Nowicki is merely a ski carrier.

The device of Mathews and Stahl are not a boxes or enclosures but merely plates which are bolted together.

On the other hand, the present claims recite a box, illustrated for example in Figs. 1 and 2 of the application.



As can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2, there is disclosed a carrier box. As shown, the lid portion 1 has a roof portion and sides and a front and rear which extend downward, while the bas portion 3 has a floor portion with front, rear and side portions which extend upward. Accordingly, when closed a void cavity is formed capable of holding a reel in the interior and substantially sealing it from weather. In this way fisherman can protect their reels during transport unlike the art cited in the office action.

Accordingly, none of the cited references taken alone or in combination disclose, teach or suggest a carrier box for holding a fishing reel. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the above mentioned rejection be withdrawn for all pending claims 9, and 12-21.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7298.075.NPUS01.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Applicant requests that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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